



VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

los angeles valley college's



Valley College seems to be lacking recycling bins on campus.

SEE OPINION PAGE 3



Free Concert Wednesdays offered up the Avnenal Chamber Players in the Recital Hall.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4



The Valley College football team extended its conference record to 4-0 on Saturday.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 6

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SERVICE LEARNING BLENDS BETTER GRADES WITH GOOD KARMA

Students earn extra credit for course-relevant volunteer work.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

With mid-terms over, many students are looking for ways to raise course grades. Service learning gives Valley College students the opportunity to participate in course-relevant volunteer work that is frequently accepted by professors for extra credit.

To receive course credit for service learning, the class must be taught by one of the more than 100 professors in 26 departments who support service learning. Upon approval of the instructor, students volunteer in the community and can gain a greater understanding of course material via real-world application. The volunteer activity also provides possible career path exploration and the opportunity to develop leadership and teamwork skills – all while making a positive impact on the community.

“Many students come in after the first mid-term and are in a panic looking for extra credit,” said Richard Brossman, associate professor of counseling and director of the service learning program. “It’s up to the instructor, but I’d say 90

percent of the faculty who do it, offer extra credit.”

Brossman adds that participation reflects well on transfer applications, as universities look for more than just campus clubs when evaluating extra-curricular involvement. “The university is looking for a connection to the community. They want to see students giving back.”

The program has proven itself academically. A survey of Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 service learning students showed they were approximately 15 percent more likely to earn a better grade and five percent less likely to drop a class, compared to non-service learning participants in the same classes.

To participate, students must complete an application which documents the purpose of the volunteer work and serves as a contract and timesheet for logging volunteer hours.

Students are responsible for securing volunteer placement with an approved agency.

Partnering with approved agencies ensures that they will be given course-relevant responsibilities.

The program requires a minimum commitment of 15-20 hours of service and an ongoing reflection journal which asks students to think and write critically about their volunteerism. The journaling process is its own learning experience and something

[See **SERVICE**, Page 2]

CAMPUS COMES UP SHORT IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EDUCATION

Advocates say outreach efforts should be higher priority during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and based on age, many Valley College students are considered to be at a higher risk for intimate partner abuse. The absence of notable awareness-raising events has left some advocates arguing too little was done to educate the campus about an important issue.

“I cannot remember one semester that I have taught here at Valley without a student telling me they had to go to court on a restraining order, or that they had been abused by a partner or knew someone who had,” said Denise Labertew, J.D., women’s rights advocate and adjunct sociology professor at Valley.

Statistics provided by the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence indicate women ages 18-24 are approximately 11 percent more likely to be victimized compared to other age groups. In total, it’s estimated that 40 percent of California women will experience some type of domestic or

intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

Labertew says there’s a definite need for increased education on campus.

“I don’t really know why (domestic violence) hasn’t been made a priority,” said Labertew. “I do know there is often a competition in awareness-raising,” she added, referring to October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month being more notably observed by popular culture and mainstream media.

[See **VIOLENCE**, Page 2]

Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Common forms of domestic violence include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and economic abuse. To learn more or for 24-hour help, contact:

Valley Trauma Center –
(818) 886-0453

Peace Over Violence –
(213) 626-3393

National Domestic Violence Hotline –
(800) 799-SAFE

Safe Horizon – (800) 621-4673

EMBATTLED ASU PRESIDENT UNDER FIRE



MEETING- ASU Vice President Kazooba Kawamara (right) was part of the Executive Council's decision to give ASU President Hanna Matevosyan (left) a number of goals to meet or face impeachment.

VALLEY STUDENTS LOSE WORKSPACE TO MYSPACE

Valley College librarians experience more of a problem with social network Web sites than books.

ANTWONE MERCER
STAFF WRITER

Students wait impatiently in line to gain access to one of the 53 library computers at Valley College that are unmonitored, unrestricted, and in most cases in need of repairs.

“I’m standing here late for class while people are wasting computer resources spending excessive amounts of time on Facebook, playing games, and engaging in online chat, that’s unnecessary network traffic,” said Chanel Harris, an aggravated student waiting in line for one of the library computers.

For more than a year, the library and staff have been located in a temporary building and one of the department’s most frustrating issues, outside of limited space and not having computer technicians to repair the units, are students complaining about other students on social network Web sites.

However, the students aren’t the only ones making noise in the library. The library staff has their own list of issues. Library Chairman Dave May said, “It’s real frustrating when the computers are unreliable and students are continuously having problems with them.” May added, “The blade computers, a new energy-efficient computer technology for easy management and virus control, are the ones that give us a significant problem, usu-

ally students can’t even log on to them.”

“Students deserve more access to computers, and if the computer labs would open at 6 a.m. rather than 10 a.m., they would have it,” said Library Clerk Judy Rawl. “It wouldn’t cost the school that much more to hire someone like student workers to open up the labs until 10, or even better, get us some more computers with the tech grants we get every few years.”

“The library is busy being a library and not focused on computers and we’re busy being a lab and not worried about books,” said Ken Freeman, assistant lab tech for the Business Journalism computer lab. Unlike the library, in order to gain access to the 42 computers in the Business Journalism computer lab, and the 35 in the Humanities Writing Center, you must swipe a student identification card to even get in the room. Students are scanned in and out with a magnetic

strip on the back of the LACCD picture ID card to keep track of who’s on the computers, what sites their on, and when they’re in the lab. Freeman admits that the labs are very strict about the use of their computers and without proper identification students will be turned away to the library.

According to Valley Vice President Sandy Mayo, it all boils down to money. “The fact is we are all suffering from an economic crisis. So to hire supervisory staff, would require more salaries with benefits,” Mayo added, “To purchase more computers would not only require a significant amount of money due to support processes and services, but would also demand more space with the proper flooring for data lines, which leads to running additional data and electricity, therefore causing additional expense to the institution.” Mayo further stated, “We have been

[See **COMPUTERS**, Page 2]



CROWDED - Students filed into the Library Tuesday to use the computers.

ASU PRESIDENT FACES ULTIMATUM

Several members of the ASU Executive Council asked President Hanna Matevosyan to meet specified goals or face impeachment after Executive Meeting.

JON SEELEY
NEWS EDITOR

Members of the ASU Executive Council went into a closed session Tuesday to give President Hanna Matevosyan an ultimatum to meet certain goals this semester or face impeachment because of her lack of action and leadership.

“We felt that if we brought in the president showing her what things have been going wrong with her leadership that she’d be willing to change,” said ASU Vice President Kazooba Kawamara. “We let her know that if she doesn’t change we would leave her behind; we would impeach her.”

Kawamara and other ASU members approached Matevosyan after the official two hour weekly meeting was adjourned. Items such as allocating \$1,500 for the Valley Speech & Debate team and \$700 for an ASU winter retreat were discussed in the regular meeting. The agenda made no mention of the closed-door session involving Matevosyan.

The Valley Star was not allowed in the closed-door meeting, which might be a violation of the Brown Act (Code Section 54950-54963). The law requires public access to meetings unless it involves disciplinary action, property negotiation or litigation. Kawamara stated it was a private meeting and wouldn’t allow a Valley Star reporter to attend. He said he would provide the Valley Star a list of the items presented to Matevosyan after the special meeting.

“I was not aware of a closed-door meeting, it wasn’t on the agenda,” said ASU Faculty Advisor Elizabeth Ortiz. “Anything that’s going to be voted on has to be on the agenda.”

If Matevosyan is impeached, a special election will be held to decide the new president for the 2010-2011 year.

MEN’S WATER POLO



Conference

The Monarchs defeated Santa Monica City College 21-3 Monday afternoon at Valley.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW



Photos of the Week: Food Market

These features and more can be found in full at www.lavalleystar.com

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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VIOLENCE

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According to Valley health educator Jeri Holden, the health center posted domestic violence information in a display case in the north gym. Limited attempts made to plan an anti-violence pledge, along with an available viewing of a documentary film were unsuccessful. Conversely, breast cancer awareness was successfully recognized with a five-hour event in Monarch Square, complete with breast exam demonstrations, information distribution and an awareness ribbon dedication ceremony. The event, part of October's Club Day, was prominently displayed in the News & Events section of Valley's Web site, where no mention of Domestic Violence Awareness Month was found.

"While I applaud the efforts of the health center, the issue of domestic violence is one that has relevance to each of our departments," Labertew said, citing the legal (administration of justice), financial (economics) and legislative (political science) implications of domestic violence. "In my opinion, a campus-wide effort would be more appropriate."

When asked why the Associated Student Union had failed to take the lead in planning a domestic violence awareness event, ASU Vice President Kazooba Kawamara explained that he was unaware of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and that ASU had decided over summer to co-sponsor and promote breast cancer and Latino heritage as part of the October Club Day activities. He added, "I will introduce domestic violence for discussion in the ASU Executive Council Board and I'm confident we will partner with the health center to increase knowledge about this disturbing and troublesome epidemic." Local advocacy groups like Los

Angeles-based Peace Over Violence and Valley Trauma Center provide guest speakers at no charge, and organizations such as the National Network to End Domestic Violence are eager to work with colleges and universities.

"Awareness events provide students with opportunities to nurture their volunteerism and learn to take a stand," Labertew explained. "This, in my opinion, is one of the most important jobs of any college campus - to provide students with tools to productively engage in the society they live in, and to create change when they see something wrong."

SERVICE

Continued from page 1

Brossman says helps differentiate service learning from regular volunteer service.

Valley psychology major Elizabeth Chavez recently completed a service-learning project with Loaves and Fishes, a Van Nuys agency that provides emergency food and clothing for the homeless. She signed up to help maintain a good grade in her anthropology course.

"School is my biggest priority, so my grade is majorly important to me," Chavez said. "I like to help and be of service to others. When it comes from the heart, it makes me feel good."

"We all believe in the program because we're here for student success," said Brossman. "Students leave the experience with something special. Sometimes they can't even articulate it, but they know they made a difference in someone's life."

For more information, visit www.lavc.edu/servicelearning or call (818) 947-2642.

COMPUTERS

Continued from page 1

forced to make some tough decisions and rather than hiring the support staff that would allow students to have more available access to computers, we've offered classes that we wouldn't be able to afford to offer otherwise."

Although no definite day has been released, the institution plans to have a two-story library, with the second floor designed for computer use only, in its new location by Fall 2011.

LAVC NEWS BRIEFS

BY BARRY JAKOB

CALIFORNIA NEWS

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA- The CSU and UC systems are expected to raise student fees next month to help pay for rising costs at universities that the new state budget didn't fully cover. CSU's administrators expect to raise undergrad fees from 5% to 10%, followed by a increase from 7% to 10% for the UC system. (LA Times)

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA- Led by MVP Edgar Renteria and two time Cy Young award winner Tim Lincecum- World Champion San Francisco Giants baseball team returned home Tuesday after a 4-1 series victory in Arlington, Texas- defeating the Texas Rangers to win San Francisco's first baseball championship after five decades. (SF Chronicle)

NATIONAL NEWS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA- Voters in Oklahoma will decide whether or not to pass a constitutional state amendment banning the use of Sharia- or Islamic law. Oklahoma does not have that problem yet," said Republican state Rep. Rex Duncan, the primary sponsor, "But why wait until it's in the courts?" (LA Times)

WASHINGTON D.C.- A terrorist plot has been foiled due to the efforts of authorities on three continents- discovering two packages wired with explosives on an Emirates Airline passenger flight headed towards the US on October 27th. The suspected packages were addressed to two Chicago area synagogues. President Obama later called the event, "a credible terrorist threat." (Associated Press)

DETROIT, MICHIGAN- General Motors has announced that it will not renew its expiring October 31st contract with Pontiac dealers- putting the muscle car brand out of business after 84 years in the market. Pontiac sales have long been in decline- with its popularity peaking in 1968 with one million sales. (Associated Press)

THE LOW DOWN

ELECTION DAY PARTICIPATION IFFY

Field Polls that predicted high voter turnout may not be accurate.

CRISTINA SERRATO



Field polls have estimated a 55 percent voter turnout for the midterm elections in what appears to be a virtual ghost town at the voting booth.

"There's not a lot of time with school to vote, there's no time right now because I have to go to work right after class," said Valley College student Richard Camarillo.

Field polls estimated a higher than average mid-term turnout because of the increase in absentee ballots in recent years. In 1978 California began to allow absentee ballots and the amount of absentee ballots has increased or even doubled yearly since its inception. To date, more than 45 percent of votes every election are done by mail. Compared to 4 percent in 1978 and 20-30 percent in 1993, the demand for absentee ballots has risen incredibly.

Although some Californians may be ecstatic to get Schwarzenegger out of office, many are hesitant about the next person to take his seat. As for press time, democratic candidate Jerry Brown has an 8 percent lead over republican candidate Meg Whitman, according to the Huffington Post. With a few hours remaining, the numbers could easily swing in the other direction as candidates have been campaigning to the bitter end.

"I basically voted because I wanted a change for California's economy," said Valley nursing major Stephanie Conde. "Economic change means school system changes and better education for the kids."

"I am not political, I only voted for President Obama," said Valley music engineering student Dorian Nettles. "However, I would like to see changes, so I will be going to the polls today to vote," he added.

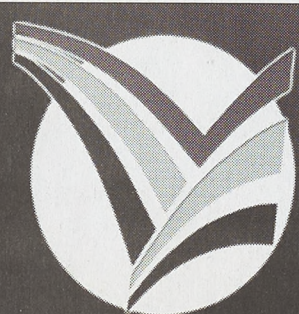
While the current election ballot holds eight items to be voted on, the item that may be most controversial on the ballot is Prop. 19, the California initiative to legalize marijuana. Early in the campaign season it looked as if it was going to pass, but according to a recent University of California poll, the ballot is failing with a 39 to 51 percent opposition.

Perhaps the supporters "forgot" to vote.

"The main reason I went to vote was in favor of Prop 19, I think it will save a lot of California money on enforcing laws against marijuana," said biology major Cody Lewin. "Federal money will still be spent since the DEA is still against legalizing [marijuana], but at least they won't spend California money."

As much as people are yearning for change, very few seem motivated to actually participate in the process. The polling places are certainly a ghost town, but with no votes any hope for change will end up in the morgue.

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CAUTION: TEEN DRIVER

Teenagers, and all that is associated with them, are a hot mess and when placed behind the wheel, can make a deadly combination.

NARINE PETROSYAN
STAFF WRITER

Drinking, smoking, hook-ups, and texting are all words associated with teenagers. Put that behind the wheel and you get a hot mess. Teen driving is out of control.

According to www.car-accidents.com, each year more than 5,000 teens ages 16-20 die due to fatal injuries caused by car accidents.

The amount of accidents teenagers are involved in due to texting, being intoxicated, and just plain not obeying the rules of the road is absurd. Insurance companies are feeding off of this. The DMV needs to start setting some higher ground rules as to who they're issuing licenses to.

It all starts around age 16, with the permit. The permit test has 25 questions, six of which you can get wrong. What if one of those questions happens to be: "What do you do when a light turns red?" and the question is answered incorrectly? During the actual driving test, you are allowed to make nine mistakes.

Last week a 17-year-old driver smashed into a school bus after fatally striking a pedestrian while intoxicated. All it takes is one mistake, not nine.

"I have been in two car accidents, both of which I have been hit by teenagers," said Sherman Oaks resident Melissa Ramon. "They just don't pay attention. There needs to be more awareness and rules."

Teenagers are known for breaking rules and living for the moment, but some rules just shouldn't be broken—like the rules of the road—when many people's lives are involved and at risk.

For heaven's sake, life will go on without the BlackBerry or iPhone during a 20-min car ride. The makeup can wait and speeding in the BMW convertible won't be fun anymore once it's smashed against another car because you couldn't hit the brakes on time. It's not worth risking lives. And after an illegal drink or two, have someone else drive, or spend the night at a friend's. The car will be there in the morning along with your life and a sober mind.

"I have been in a few accidents because I wasn't paying much attention and using my phone," said 18-year-old Vanessa Torres. "But it got really bad the last time so now I try and be more careful when I drive. I think that teens can be good drivers, they just need to pay attention. Everyone gets easily distracted, but it's important not to when driving."

Driving is not the time to eat, put on makeup or talk on the phone. A car can be a deadly weapon and if someone is incapable of paying attention, having both hands on the steering wheel, obeying the laws of the road, and avoiding distraction, they just shouldn't be driving, teenager or not.

SAVE THE FISHIES, SAVE THE DUCKIES, SAVE MY BREATH

At Valley College, recycling may be for the birds.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

While recycling bins may be good for the bottle and good for the can, they are increasingly hard to find on Valley College campus. This is a tale of one woman's futile search for the elusive recycling can at Valley.

Now, I don't consider myself Miss Eco-friendly, so don't get me wrong, I'm not perfect.

However, I do recycle at home, buy EnergyStar products, turn off extra lights in my house, purchase recycled products whenever I can, use reusable grocery bags, cut the six-pack rings from soda cans before I toss them and I don't use aerosol anything. If I drove (and could afford it) I would drive hybrid. So I'm proud of myself and my (limited) eco-skills.

Yet, I hate when I go out of my way to do my part to save Mother Earth and someone else hinders me, especially when that "someone else" is the unnamed powers-that-be.

Let me explain the ranting: I went to the Business Journalism computer

lab recently and 72 cents later printed off the completely wrong paperwork. Annoyed, I decided to just throw it in the recycling bin and start over. Looking for the familiar blue recycle bin, or the polar bear that is the school symbol for recycling, I was bewildered to find neither.

There were several trash cans though. Filled with paper, food and random trashed items, which is odd because they are very strict about the no food/drink thing in that lab. Using my brilliant logic I had assumed since there was no food or drink allowed in that particular lab that most trash cans would be dedicated to recycling.

I hate when I'm wrong.

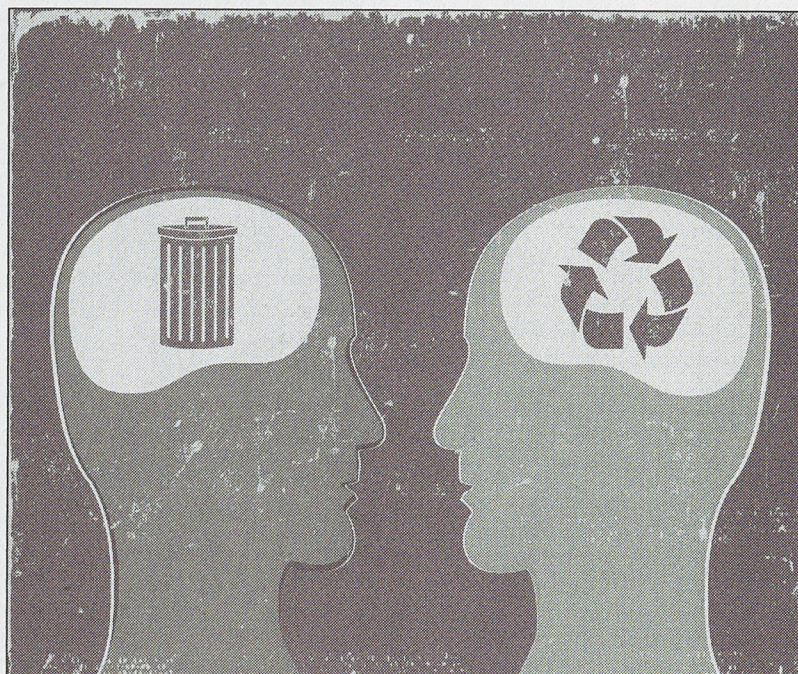
I asked the young distracted computer lab helper "which trash can or where is the can for recycling?"

"I don't think we use it, or have one, umm maybe that one right there," he implored with a hesitant point at the nearest can.

Seriously. Sigh.

Taking the stack of papers with me, I trudged to my tiny, claustrophobic broadcasting class, where there is no space for a recycle can, so of course, there is not one. Nor is there one in the hallway.

There is not one in the Fireside



room, but I was told by a pretty, young helpful girl that she believes "they" just removed it recently.

Those darned powers-that-be continued to hinder my recycling.

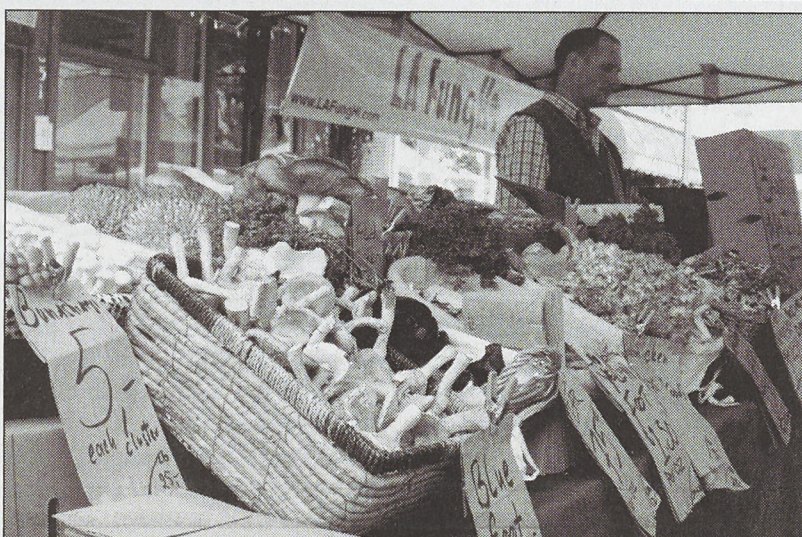
Undaunted, I continued to my English class where I searched in vain for a recycle bin. There was none, not in the class, or in the hallway.

I felt guilt wash over me as I threw the stack of papers into a trash

can. Amidst the cans, the food wrappers, banana peels and miscellaneous items, the paper looked so white and pure.

Foiled again.

Where-o-where did u put all the recycle bins, you powers-that-be? Will you bring them back soon? Oh ASU, gimme back the blue bins I so long for. My eco-ego can't take another beating.



LA FUNGHI - Dirk Hermann of LA Funghi selling mushrooms at Sherman Oaks' Westfield Fashion Square farmers market.

FRAUDULENT FARMERS MARKETS

The credibility of farmers market vendors has been challenged recently.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

The 300 farmers markets in Los Angeles County provide a place for

vendors to make an honest living and

a chance for consumers to purchase local, organic, and pesticide-free produce. A recent investigation by NBC Los Angeles discovered things aren't always what they seem.

Several local farmers market vendors have been caught breaking regulations and making false claims to

consumers about their produce, taking credibility away from those vendors who are truthful in the representation of their produce.

"Here I am spending hundreds and it's a fraud," said frequent farmers market shopper Socorro Chaney. "I really don't trust any farmers market now. I am very disappointed."

Mary Ellen Martinez, owner of The Berry Best, claims to sell strawberries that are pesticide free. But when NBC-LA sent samples of her strawberries to a state-certified lab, results concluded that they contained high pesticide levels.

Martinez justified her actions because she felt if her pesticide-free sign was not up, consumers would not purchase her produce. Instead Martinez would rather lie and take money from innocent consumers looking for healthy produce.

Under California state law farmers market vendors can only sell produce they have grown themselves. Jesse Frutos, owner of Frutos Farm, was confronted after produce he had been selling at seven different farmers markets was not found growing on his farm. After admitting his avocados

were not being grown on his farm, investigators found Frutos loading his truck with boxes purchased from downtown Los Angeles wholesale warehouses on a farmers market day.

Many consumers at the neighborhood Westfield Fashion Square farmers market were not aware of or chose not to acknowledge the fraud occurring with produce. One consumer even stated, "Ignorance is bliss." He'd rather not have his farmers market experience ruined. But he failed to realize his ignorance could result in paying big bucks for low quality produce.

Isobeth Flores, fruit stand worker at the Westfield Fashion Square farmers market, advises his customers the fruit is not organic.

"I tell people our fruits are not organic," said Flores. "If I didn't I would be deceiving them. I think [what is going on] is bad because they are looking for organic produce and they don't get it."

Not every vendor is as brave as Flores and a result, the credibility of vendors claiming to sell organic, locally grown produce is questionable.

NARCOTICS AND AN OVERCROWDED DANCE FLOOR

Safety and health issues plague popular raves like Monster Massive and Electric Daisy Carnival.

ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

The lingerie-clad girls and shirtless guys with bandanas around their necks who attend raves might see it as a great opportunity to let go of inhibitions and get absorbed in an atmosphere of "Peace. Love. Unity. Respect." But for many, health and safety become an issue that is not easily controlled when the popular drug ecstasy is involved and when "stricter oversight" is not enforced.

Although not all ravers party

through the night by use of ecstasy, a good number of them do. Those who are under the influence of "X" commonly experience short term pleasurable effects. According to www.drugfree.org, ecstasy produces feelings of peacefulness, acceptance, and empathy. It is a stimulant that enables users to dance for extended periods. This can lead to severe dehydration and increases in body temperature when combined with the extreme heat often common at crowded raves.

"Although I believe people should be able to do what they want to a certain extent, I wouldn't let my kids go to a rave," said Valley College Psychology Professor Ron Mossler. "People often die or get seriously injured at raves and that is the biggest issue. There is also

more and more evidence that ecstasy really damages short-term and long-term memory, and from a cognitive standpoint that is a serious concern."

Safety and health issues became a highly prominent issue at raves after 15-year-old Sasha Rodriguez died of an ecstasy overdose when she attended the 14th annual Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC) this June. She was among 200 ravers who were hospitalized. EDC had a minimum age requirement of 16 years old and Rodriguez's death provided for a temporary ban on new raves at the Los Angeles Coliseum, reported the LA Times.

Stronger attempts to control safety issues include a ban on minors as well as the presence of drug sniffing dogs, undercover officers, and

doctors. Yet there are always loopholes around the restrictions. For example, Rodriguez was 15 years old when she was allowed entrance into EDC where the age requirement was 16 years. This so-called stricter oversight did not do enough to control the crowd of 16,000 at a recent rave where 40 ravers were arrested and 16 were hospitalized.

According to promoters for the recent Halloween Monster Massive rave, the arena was transformed to a "haunted world beyond your imagination." Regardless of "strict oversight," the involvement of ecstasy can easily haunt worlds beyond imagination and if authorities can't prevent these all-night parties from turning into life-threatening situations, the legality of them should be greatly considered.

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID...
MASOCHISTICALLY PACIFIST

"Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

KELLY DAVIS



Civil disobedience. The active, professed refusal to obey certain laws, or demands of a government, has played a vital role in all movements for justice, usually taking the form of nonviolent resistance.

The Valley Star has been following the disciplinary action of Valley College student Samuel Lara since last May when he was removed from an ASU meeting after his refusal to move from behind the ASU president and cease his peaceful protest against Arizona's controversial SB1070 on immigration.

Lara and the cause he supports, Alto Arizona, are exactly the type of nonviolent resistance that historically have succeeded in encouraging change on a monumental level.

Last week, Lara's displays of civil disobedience again made front-page news. This time, he was met with violence. Student witnesses remarked that Lara was slammed against the hood of a police car and that his arm was twisted almost to the point of breaking.

In response to the incident Deputy Ricky Baker said that Lara, "addressed them with racial slurs" and failed "to comply with the officers questions."

Henry David Thoreau said, "[I]t is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right."

In 1849, Thoreau's essay on civil disobedience argued that people should not permit governments to overrule or weaken their consciences and that we have a duty to avoid allowing the government to make us agents of injustice.

Perhaps Lara was disrespectful to campus police, but they had absolutely no reason to inflict violence on a non-violent individual.

Dating back to 1819, in his poem, "The Masque of Anarchy," Percy Shelley commented on the psychological consequences of violence met with pacifism. Shelley said the guilty will return shamefully to society.

Deputy Baker also suggested that, "Mr. Lara's intent here was to bait both the Valley Star staff and the security staff into a public display, which he may gain empowerment and recognition for."

Deputy Baker, I wholeheartedly agree with you there. The difference between us is that you seem hell-bent on silencing and punishing Mr. Lara for standing up and making himself heard on an issue he believes in, and I fully support Lara and his right to demonstrate nonviolent civil disobedience.

Perhaps you should be more supportive, Deputy Baker. If it weren't for Rosa Parks and her displays of civil disobedience, you might be still be segregated to patrolling the colored section of campus, if at all.

The student body should be thanking Lara for reminding us that the only way to incite change is to stand up for what we believe in. As Edmund Burke said, "all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Mr. Lara, there is an old biblical verse that says, "whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

E-mail Kelly Davis at k.davis@lavalleystar.com

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

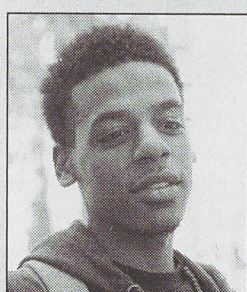
VALLEY VIEW

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE EXCESSIVE FORCE CAMPUS POLICE ALLEGEDLY USED ON A STUDENT LAST WEEK?



"They're getting paid to abuse people. It's kind of messed up, but what can you do about it?"

-DANNIELLE FISHER
PSYCHOLOGY



"I think that sucks. I don't think the cops should be touching us at all."

-AKEEM DIXON
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS



"I mean they did the right thing, because if he's causing trouble then they should be doing something."

-ELINA DAVTYAN
BIOLOGY



"I think it's an abuse of power actually. If he wasn't resisting it, why would you need to use excessive force?"

-ROMINA CHUATICO
BUSINESS



"They just used excessive force because they were mad at the guy, not for an actual good reason."

-CARINA MURILLO
JOURNALISM

LAVC Events

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 3rd

Assemblymember Mike Feuer will hold a Community Job Fair on Wednesday, November 3 from 9 a.m.-12 noon in Monarch Hall. Immediately following the Job Fair, there will be a panel discussion on "Jobs and the Economy" from 12:30-2 p.m.

The first 50 people to RSVP for the panel discussion will receive a complimentary lunch. This event is being co-sponsored by LAVC, the California State Assembly, the WorkSource Center of California, the Employment Development Department for the State of California, ResCare Workforce Services, and the Valley Economic Alliance. For more information, or to RSVP, call the Office of Assemblymember Mike Feuer at (310) 285-5490 or (818) 902-0521, or email Nicole.carcel@asm.ca.gov.

Thursday, 4th

The LAVC Family Resource Center and LAVC Child Development Department will hold a panel discussion on "Writing and Illustrating Books for Children" with local children's book authors Hope Anita Smith and Barney Saltzberg on Thursday, November 4 from 7-8 p.m. in the Behavioral Sciences Building, Room 101.

This free authors' symposium will discuss how they became writers and the process of writing and illustrating books for children. Hope Anita Smith is the author and illustrator of Mother Poems, and Barney Saltzberg is the author and illustrator of Peekaboo Kisses and Crazy Hair Day. This event is open to the public. For more information or to RSVP, email Gary Huff at huffg@lavc.edu or call (818) 778-5612.

! THINK TRANSFER

Fall 2011 UC and CSU Transfer Application Deadline is November 30th. Apply at: www.csumentor.edu and www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 3rd
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30pm-6:30pm

Thursday, 4th
Loyola Marymount University Rep 12pm-2pm in Monarch Square
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1pm-2pm

Monday, 8th
UCLA Rep 9am-3pm
College Personal Statement Workshop 5pm-6:30pm
How to Transfer Workshop 5:30pm-6:30pm

Tuesday, 9th
Mount St. Marys Rep 10am-1pm
CSU Los Angeles Rep 10am-1pm
College Personal Statement Workshop 1pm-2:30pm
How to Transfer Workshop 1pm-2pm

Wednesday, 10th
UC Berkeley Rep 10am-12:30pm
UC Berkeley Admissions Workshop 1-2pm

All events held in the Career/Transfer Center (Student Services Annex) unless otherwise indicated. For further information call (818) 947-2646.

FREE CONCERTS CONTINUE WITH CHAMBERED JAZZ

The Avenel Chamber Players come to Valley College to help alleviate academic stress.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Many students sat back with their eyes closed and let themselves fall into oblivion as a sextet performed the perfect mellow tunes to allow one to slip into unconsciousness and forget their worries.

Students who attended Wednesday afternoon's free concert in the Musical Recital Hall were given a chance to relax and relieve some academic stress as The Avenel Chamber Players provided an hour of soothing chambered jazz.

Five wind instruments and a piano constituting the polymorphous

ensemble presented the audience with a world premiere of two arrangements by composers who were present in the recital hall.

Michal Kibbe and Ross Garren humbled spectators with their presence while the musicians performed their music for the first time before a public audience. Kibbe fulfilled the duties of the sheet music page-turner for pianist Paul Wiesepape, as well as conductor for his own sporadic composition entitled "Sojourn, Op. 190." Kibbe's arrangement, which consisted of four different measures, was not unlike something from Disney's "Fantasia," taking the listener into dissimilar realms of the psyche. The piece made it easy to envision Greek gods indulging in ambrosia one second, followed by unicorns flying about apocalyptic thunder storms the next.

Bassoonist Stephen Thiroux took the reins as the sole presenter and speaker of the ensemble, giving brief synopses of the origins of every song, as well explaining the various roles

of the participating musicians in each piece. The sextet consisted of Thiroux on bassoon and contrabassoon, Lori Musicant Koch on Clarinet and bass clarinet, Holly Patterson on oboe and English horn, Jennifer Adrian on horn, Sean Stackpoole on flute, and Paul Wiesepape on piano.

Together since 2007, the chamber ensemble is a band of friends who share a goal of expanding the piano sextet repertoire. The ACP seeks to acquaint audiences with a variety of musical genres, including classical, contemporary and world music.

Aside from taking the time to perform for Valley College students and several music-loving senior citizens from the community, the performers hung around for an extra 30 minutes to answer any questions that attending music majors had about technique, summoning inspiration, or general inquiries about instruments. The post-performance Q&A's are just one incentive for Valley students to attend Free Concert Wednesdays.



SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR
DEEP CONCENTRATION - Sean Stackpoole and Holly Patterson perform soothing chambered jazz in the Music Recital Hall.

VALLEY PROGRAM PROVIDES FREE BABY CLOTHES

In tough economic times, student-parents and community members welcome gently used clothing.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

Babies outgrow clothes at an alarming rate, and many parents find themselves going through cash as fast as diapers when paying retail for baby wardrobes. When

money is tight, a baby clothes exchange, sponsored by Valley College's Family Resource Center, provides much-needed economic relief. Started in 1997, the program provides Valley student-parents and community members with gently used baby clothes in sizes 0-3.

"We tell parents to take what they need, bring back what they can or bring other stuff," said Marni Roosevelt, director of the Family Resource Center and innovator of the campus baby clothes exchange.

Initial donations were provided by local child care centers,

nursery schools and private individuals. "We put the word out about what we needed and got big bags of clothes," Roosevelt said. The center also helps parents find low- or no-cost access to other supplies such as cribs and strollers. "When we can't fill somebody's need, we see ourselves as a resource to help them figure it out," Roosevelt added.

The baby clothes exchange program serves an average of 10 families per week. Some clients travel from as far as Palmdale to utilize the service. Everyone is

welcome. Van Nuys resident Edna

Dominguez and her 2-year-old daughter, Emma, stopped to examine the available clothes on their way to Thursday's Parent & Baby class at the center. Dominguez heard about the Family Resource Center from her sister-in-law who attends Valley. She is grateful for the available services and plans to utilize the clothes exchange in the future. "My daughter outgrows her clothes every two-to-three months," she said, noting the high cost of baby and toddler clothes and especially shoes.

As an added benefit, the baby clothes exchange often serves as a springboard back to school for

area parents.

"Parents figure out how to get to campus on the bus or where to park," said Roosevelt. "They realize there are other services and many eventually go back to school. It's a bridge to other opportunities and a really great program for the community."

The Family Resource Center is located on campus in Bungalow 49 and welcomes donations of clean clothes in good condition. Items with stains or tears will be discarded. To receive clothing or make a donation, contact the center at (818) 778-5528.

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TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

DIGGING DEEP

James Franco and Danny Boyle discuss unpeeling the layers of human emotion in "127 Hours."

J.P. SPENCE



Recently the Valley Star had the opportunity to speak with James Franco and Danny Boyle, the star and director of the upcoming film "127 Hours." While the film is generating heavy Oscar buzz, the duo was more concerned with doing the source material justice.

Valley Star: How was the collaboration between Aron and the film?

Danny Boyle: I met Aron in 2003 and I talked to him in 2006 and I said to him I wanted to tell this story but I don't want to tell it through you (Aron) which is weird because he'd just written the book and he's completely in control and he's heard all these horror stories about Hollywood and how it chews up real life stories and they slap on happy endings and all of a sudden he has his arm and I said don't worry we'll tell it through an actor, and I'm an actor's director and I like having them tell the story. They are able to emote so much that we can't and this will be so cathartic and if you want this to be your story and have as real as possible you need to have an actor take the audience there.

VS: Can you talk about the ending...

James Franco: It's a very unusual ending and part of that is acknowledging how Danny wanted to approach it while still honoring Aron. One thing I often hear is how it's an experience in watching the film that most people don't usually get. The first time we showed the film in Colorado it was weird. His friends were there and it took it back like it just happened and it's a strange blurring but its great way to acknowledge it and give the story back to Aron.

VS: How did you get into the mindset of playing Aron Ralston and conveying that character?

JF: There were a lot of different levels of that. I got to see the real videos Aron made and he told me what happened every second of the way. You know he's told this story to hundred s of thousands of people but more than anything you can say about those videos is that their way more pure. It's not Aron telling the experience, it's him living it. You know Aron didn't know if there is a happy ending to it for most of the way. As an actor you can just absorb every emotion. I mean, he thought he was going to die, you can tell there was a lot going underneath there emotionally but there was this dignified demeanor. That, as an actor was a major key I took in while making the movie. You have to use every experience you have to help convey and amplify that affect.

MEMORIES FADE BUT THE INK IS PERMANENT

Self described Marine "grunt" Dustin Smith looks for a fresh start after serving a year in Fallujah.

EVERY CROSS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

With a soft-spoken almost shy demeanor, in blue jeans, a wrinkled shirt and a New York Yankees baseball cap, Dustin Smith looks like any other all-American college student. But roll up the sleeves and the ink underneath tells a different story.

Large block lettering down his left forearm spells out "HAOLE".

"It means foreigner - white foreigner," he said. "I got that when I was stationed in Hawaii."

It's a nickname that stuck after four years living abroad in Japan, Thailand, Kuwait, Korea and Iraq, while serving his country as Cpl. Smith of the U.S. Marine Corps. The 27-year-old Valley College student has been to parts of the globe most students only read about, and he has seen first hand the ravages of war. The tattoos across his body are a testament to that.

"Fallujah" is scrawled across his

abdomen. Where he spent his first year of combat in Iraq in 2004. A Marine grunt positioned in forward observation and assigned as radio operator for the close air support team.

"It's where you go ahead and make sure everything is clear for the other guys to follow," Smith said. "If the fighting looks too intense, my job was to call in the airstrike. It's a lot of pressure for a 19-year-old kid. Knowing you have those guys' lives in your hands."

Iraq is also where he got his first tattoo. A large Chinese dragon on his right arm.

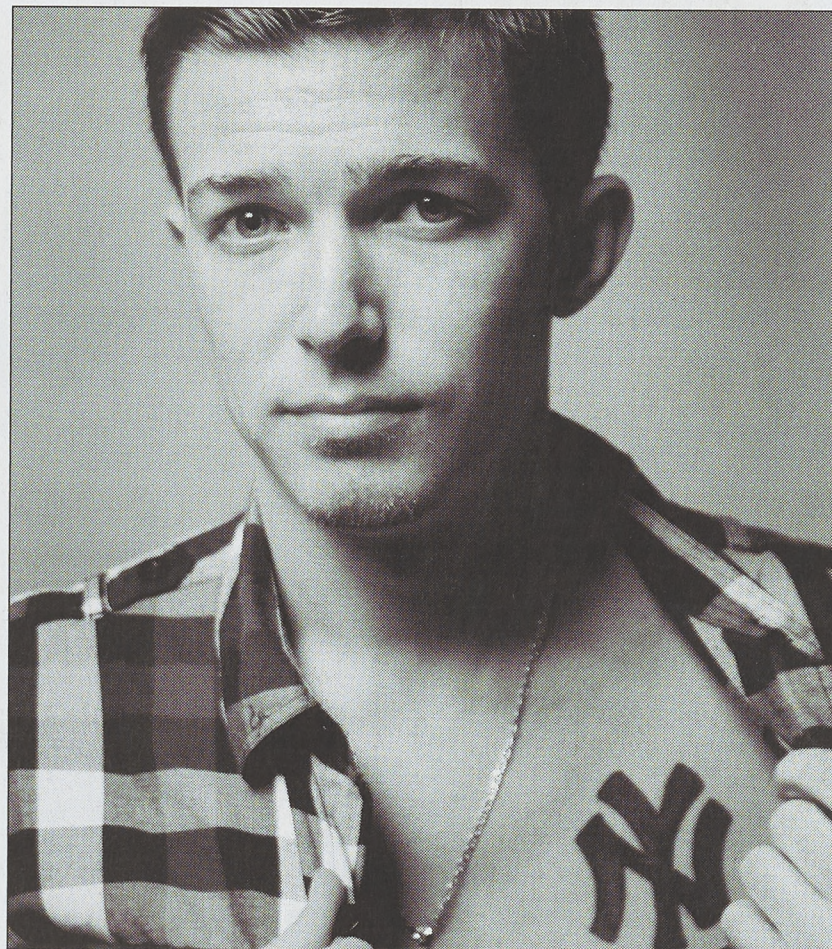
The symbol represents power. But it also illustrates a less obvious part of military life - boredom.

"There wasn't much to do except drink and get tattoos," Smith said. "Now I'm addicted."

A full color sleeve that tells the story of "my life in the Marines" is next.

"I lost 30 friends in Iraq," he said. "I was thinking of doing a scroll of their names with skulls and angels around it. The skulls represent all the horrible things I saw, and the angels represent the innocence I lost."

Maybe this is why Smith likes



TATTOO YOU - Former Marine and current Valley College student Dustin Smith uses tattoos to tell his life story.

SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR

tattoos, they tell the story for him. He wears them like a badge of honor, silent but quiet reminders of everything he's seen. Each one a stamp of passage on the passport of his body.

They represent the power of these places and what they mean to him. "NY" - for his hometown and favorite team. "Fallujah" - for the place he made and lost a lot of friends, but he somehow survived. "HAOLE" - for the man he was until three years ago, a foreigner in someone else's land.

He doesn't miss the confines of his former life, but he misses his platoon, the men he calls his brothers. And he never questioned joining the Marines.

"All the men in my family were in the military," he said. "My dad, my uncle, my grandfather."

At 18 he felt more prepared for going to war than going to college.

Now with that behind him, he is finally ready for the academic challenge. He's adjusted to the freedom of civilian life, and as he strolls across campus, a backpack slug casually across one shoulder, his Yankees cap covering a hint of graying at his temples, he's blending seamlessly into the laid-back California landscape, tats and all, pursuing his dream to be a journalist.

VALLEY STAR LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

Valley Star staff brings home 13 awards from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges regional conference.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The Valley Star staff made good use of their two-week break from printing by attending the Journalism Association of Community Colleges Southern California conference at CSU Fullerton, bringing home 13 awards including General Excellence.

The Journalism Association of Community Colleges is a non-profit educational corporation dedicated to community college journalism in California. The conference is run by an elected board of directors who represent both students and

faculty around the state.

"[The awards] show the dedication and hard work our staff displays," said journalism professor and Valley Star Adviser Bill Dauber. "Not many people realize how these students work above and beyond the normal criteria to produce a newspaper every week."

Managing Editor J.P. Spence won two awards for Critical Review: Honorable Mention for a Mail-in entry and fourth place for his On-the-Spot review of a stage performance. New-comer to the staff and JACC first-timer Courtney Bassler won third place in the Feature Writing competition.

"It was very humbling," said Bassler. "I think so many of us on staff hope that we can have some sort of career in journalism and receiving an award like that just validates that all of us are moving in the right direction."

The regional conference is a two-day affair featuring competitions in various fields of photography, page layout,

editorial cartoon, as well as the various writing competitions including Critical Review, Opinion, News, and Feature Story. Workshops conducted by professionals from various publications and universities were also available for students including "Tips for Freelance Success," "Making it in Journalism," and "Knowing Your Reporting Rights." Approximately 35 schools from Southern California attended the event and lodging was provided by the Fullerton Marriott, conveniently located across the street from CSUF.

Other award winners include Editor-In-Chief Lucas Thompson who received an honorable mention for his Mail-In Sports Game Story, photographer Samson Uba with an honorable mention for On-the-Spot Sports Photo, and former Editor-In-Chief Israel Gutierrez won first place for Mail-In Inside Page Layout as well as an honorable mention for Mail-In Broadsheet Front Page Layout.

OVER THE MOUNTAIN

Sometimes the best stories can't be made up.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

It's a bold statement for a director to tell a story solely from one man's point of view, but focusing on that main character for 95 percent of the film is practically unheard of. "127 Hours" not only accomplishes both of these feats but also tells a story that is equally gripping as it cathartic.

"127 Hours" is based off the book and true story of Aron Ralston, the mountaineer who made headlines in 2003 after amputating his own arm after it was trapped from a boulder landing on it.

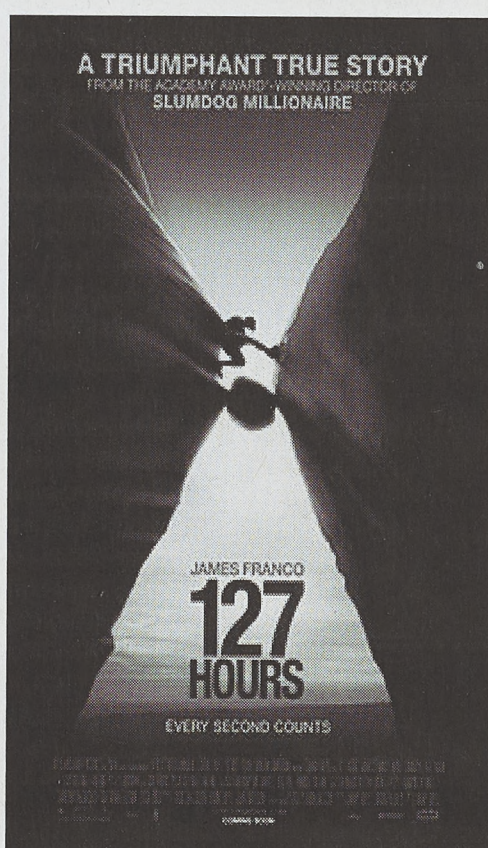
The genius touch that Danny Boyle ("Slumdog Millionaire") added to this film wasn't telling Ralston's story from a narrative point of view or a first person perspective. Boyle makes the audience a fly on the wall while the story is unfolding, and even though most know the eventual outcome, the director adds enough tension and legitimate horror that the viewer forgets.

Screenwriter Simon Beaufoy ("Slumdog Millionaire," "The Full Monty") does a very thorough and thoughtful job of gleaned the best moments from Ralston's stream-of-consciousness delivery from his book "A Rock and A Hard Place" and translating them cohesively into a well paced film. From a writing perspective, Beaufoy deserves a lot of credit for crystallizing the most intense scenes with minimal dialogue. There is a lot of credit to be given to a writer who eschews verbiage for quiet tension.

James Franco, while known more for roles in "Pineapple Express," "Freaky and Geeks," and the Spider Man Trilogy is clearly the perfect choice for the film. Franco's

talent to capture the panic, desperation, and resignation of what Ralston went through is uncanny and is what keeps the audience utterly fixated on every movement he makes. The best part of Franco's performance is his ability to completely live in Ralston's skin during the film. It's nothing like watching an A-list actor portray someone and having to constantly remind yourself that you're watching a biopic, not Hilary Swank impersonating someone. There is a difference.

Ultimately "127 Hours" is a very deep, emotional, and raw piece of introspection, catharsis, and the limitless determination of man. Regardless of this film already generating heavy Oscar buzz this is a film that is not to be missed.



COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT

DEL TORO MAKES VAMPIRES SCARY AGAIN

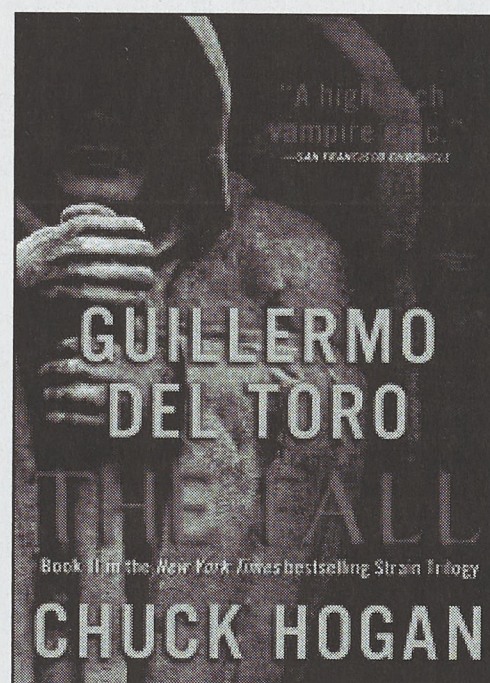
Del Toro teams up with Chuck Hogan to produce a vintage vampire tale with a twist.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Amidst the omnipresence of sexy vampires in today's pop culture, leave it to the dark cinema king Guillermo Del Toro to bring the cryptic eeriness of the ubiquitous blood suckers back with "The Fall," the second installment to his literary trilogy called "The Strain."

Teaming up with award-winning author Chuck Hogan, whose Boston-set novel "The Prince of Thieves" was the basis for the film "The Town," Del Toro delivers a gruesome tale a vampiric pandemic spreading through Manhattan, presenting vampires more as a zombie-like virus than the modern romantic, gym-going beefcake.

The sequel picks up where "The Strain" leaves off following Dr. Ephraim Goodweather, a former epidemiologist with Centers for Disease Control and his ally Abraham Setrakian, a Holocaust survivor who first encountered the evil undead during his time in Treblinka, and has been hunting them ever since. Joined by a skillful exterminator named Vasily Fet and a group of ruthless gang-bangers, the pair must find a way to abate the head vampire, known as the Master, and his ever-growing army of blood sucking disciples which include Goodweather's ex-wife and Setrakian's former Nazi officer.



COURTESY OF HARPER COLLINS

There are many aspects of the story that are familiar, such as Setrakian's resemblance to Bram Stoker's vampire hunter Abraham Van Helsing, but the propulsive writing of the story (unmistakably Hogan's contribution) and the various twists on the old vampire concept make "The Fall" a compelling and fun read. Many of the typical vampire killing traditions go out the window as crucifix's, holy water and the old stake through the heart do nothing to stop these creatures. And as for the vampires' methods of acquiring human blood, sharp fangs in the neck seem rather petty compared to the six-foot shooting stingers which propel out of the hinged jaws of Del Toro's vermin-like characters.

"The Fall" certainly maintains the energy of the first novel and is equally as hard to put down once started. A highly anticipated third installment called "Night Eternal" is in the works and is set for a 2012 release. These books are sure to make the hair on the back of one's neck stand up and will make readers want to sleep with their nightlights on.

THE MOVIES

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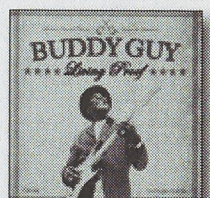


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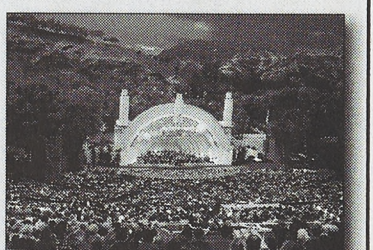
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ALSO:

- WARPAINT - THE FOOL
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- AVEY TARE - DOWN THERE
- TAYLOR SWIFT - SPEAK NOW

CONCERTS & THEATRE



- PAUL GILBERT: NOV. 1
- HOUSE OF BLUES SUNSET STRIP
- GOV'T MULE: NOV. 2
- HOUSE OF BLUES ANAHEIM
- PAUL WELLS: NOV. 3
- THE WILTERN
- ELTON JOHN: NOV. 3
- HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM
- SNOOP DOGG: NOV. 3
- GIBSON AMPHITHEATRE
- REEL BIG FISH: NOV. 4
- HOUSE OF BLUES SUNSET STRIP
- GODSMACK: NOV. 4
- NOKIA THEATRE

THE MONARCHS EXTEND CONFERENCE PERFECTION



Victory - Valley College tight end Marquel Henderson caught a pass from Dan Own in Saturday night's game.

Saturday night's victory against the Santa Monica Corsairs extended the Monarchs conference record to 4-0.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

You could see the satisfaction in Jim Fenwick's face Saturday night, as he gathered the remaining seeds and pieces of pumpkin from the Monarch Stadium field. He was collecting the remainder of the pumpkins his team had destroyed moments before as they yelled, "I got that Valley pride feeling down in my heart, down in my heart to stay," in celebration of the 24-11 victory the team posted against the Santa Monica Corsairs.

Though the Monarch offense was slow to get in any sort of rhythm in the first half, its defense held the Corsair offense to six, allowing Valley to adjust to Santa Monica's complicated defensive schemes.

"It was just the execution, we weren't executing on our plays," Monarch quarterback Dan Owen said after the game.

Despite a missed field goal and

several failed attempts in the red zone, the Monarch offense was able to score on maybe the most important series of the night. After a goal line stand from the Corsair defense, the Monarchs forced a three and out, giving Owen and company a short field. Two key quarterback keepers by Owen and a Travion Odom reception put the team in scoring position. With 31 seconds remaining in the first half, receiver Donte Gilmer caught an eight-yard pass from Owen to give the Monarchs a 7-6 lead.

"I think they're starting to believe in what we're teaching and what we're doing, the accountability part of it, and it showed up when we didn't make it on fourth down ... that was very disappointing," Valley Head Coach Jim Fenwick said. "But we did what we needed to do and shut down the offense and made them kick it, (which) gave us a short field (that) we capitalized on, so that's a sign of a good team."

Gilmer, who had 86 receiving yards and two touchdowns on the night, exposed major holes in the Corsairs middle-of-the-field defense throughout the game. Odom did some exposing of his own combining for one touchdown and 112 receiving

yards on the night.

"It's all of us being at practice and playing really hard and working really hard," Gilmer said. "I think everybody just stepped it up, our running game is what made it possible for us to throw, so that's what completes the offense."

The Monarchs outscored the Corsair offense 17-5 in the second half with major contributions from quarterback Dan Owen. Owen battled hard throughout the game, forced to keep the ball on broken plays and strong defensive coverage from Santa Monica. Owen combined for three touchdowns, 272 passing yards and 61 rushing yards against Santa Monica. The well-rounded play is nothing new for the 6-foot-2-inch freshman from L.A. Baptist High School.

"We're fortunate to have a guy that can do that stuff," Fenwick said about Owen's running ability. "It puts an awful lot of pressure on the defense; we just have to take advantage of his ability."

The Monarchs, now 4-0 in conference play, face the Los Angeles Southwest Cougars this Saturday, away, at 6 p.m. The team's final regular season game is slated for Nov. 13 against rival Pierce College.

have several good guys from last year. There is no reason why we shouldn't win another championship," Mallas added.

The offseason consists of a 10-game fall semester. With 45 guys currently on the roster, Mallas needs to cut it down to 20 or 30 by spring. Competition is fierce and as the season gets closer each player has to be on his "A-game," according to Mallas.

"It was 2005 when we won our last championship and I am excited we were able to win another. Five years is too long of a gap, though. I expect a playoff berth at the very least," said Mallas.

Freddy Contreras and Stephen Odachowski are two of the

Monarchs' starting pitchers who will be returning to the mound this year. Last season they combined for six of Valley's wins and were essential to the team's performance, according to Mallas.

Chase Muñoz, a catcher and pitcher, will also be returning to the diamond this season. Regarding his talents, Mallas said, "He is a well-rounded player and we are happy to see him return. He is really developing well this offseason."

The team's first divisional game will be on March 5, on the road against Citrus College. The Monarchs beat the Fighting Owls last season and hope this season produces the same results.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



TRIUMPH - Valley College's men's water polo team defeated Santa Monica.

LADY MONARCHS ARE READY FOR CHALLENGES

Under new Head Coach Monica Hang, and a team composed of 10 new players, the women's basketball team is ready for the upcoming season.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

Coming off an overall record of 9-16 and a conference record of 6-6, the women's basketball team is up for a challenge. However, this year the team has two challenges that they are ready to overcome: adjusting to a new coach and improving their record.

"We have a tough schedule," said Coach Hang. "It's probably one of the toughest in the state. We play against a team who won state, Ventura College, and a lot of teams that are ranked in the state."

These 16 girls are definitely looking forward to this season. However, there are some players that are back from last year such as Porcha Davis, first team all conference last year, coming back as a sophomore and Chriselle "Kookie" Taloma, sophomore point guard, who are definitely prepared for the upcoming season.



EXCITEMENT - The lady Monarch basketball team looks forward to the season

"I'm looking forward to the games and I expect to see [everyone's] faces there," said Taloma. "We have a lot of fresh meat."

With 10 new players, two of them being transfer students, a new head coach, and six returnees, there's a lot of zealous energy while the team practices.

"I'm excited to see what the team has to offer as a group," said transfer, Richelle Navera. "There's a lot of new people and transfers. It's going to be different than last year from what I know."

This year, under Hang, the girls are focusing on a motto that Hang came up with while she was a college athlete herself, "Nothing is impossible."

"I love challenges as an individual," said Hang. "When someone tells me that I can't do something, I use it as a positive. It motivates me."

And motivation is a key component for Hang while she coaches, especially for the upcoming season.

"I think we're going to have an awesome season," Taloma said. "It's serious, but fun at the same time."

The first game for the women's basketball team is Monday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at home against the Napa Valley Storm.

ANALYZE THIS ... SUCCESS DOESN'T ALWAYS RESULT IN ATTENDANCE...

The Monarch football team, now 4-0 in conference, is still seeing little attendance.

LUCAS THOMPSON



The term "ghost town" wasn't only used as a Halloween reference Saturday night at Valley College, it also perfectly described and usually describes Monarch Stadium during home football games.

The Valley football team kicked off against the Santa Monica Corsairs in hopes of extending a 3-0-conference record to 4-0. Scattered throughout the stands were parents, children, grandparents, girlfriends and maybe a couple of Valley students who had accidentally stumbled by the stadium after one of their night classes.

"Personally I don't know when they are," music and biology major Kyle Bright said about the home games. "Maybe they just need to advertise them better."

From 2003-2006 the Monarchs were unable to post more than two wins in conference play, and the following two weren't much better. But hope has arrived. He is the man I have been talking about for the past two football seasons, the guy who took the Monarchs to four bowl games from 1991-1996, coached at schools like Cal State Northridge, University of New Mexico, Eastern Oregon University, and Miami University of Ohio. He has built successful programs time and time again all over the country and now he's back, for the second time in his career, wearing green and gold. He's back, and after a season and eight games he has led a once long-time struggling program to a 6-2 regular season record and an undefeated 4-0-conference record. This, however, is not enough to spark enthusiasm for the Valley football team.

"I don't go because I only have two classes and other than classes I don't really go to Valley," Valley student Aryelle Zapanza said.

My assumption is that school spirit doesn't exist at Valley, even during times of success. Correct me if I'm wrong, but the last time I saw an ASU or club member at a Valley home game was ... never. ASU bombards the students with "vote for me," and club day fliers, yet are unable to show a little school spirit because they didn't know when the games were or were just too busy. Keep in mind athletics drive a school's status, make money, and attract more students to the campus.

"I don't think they feel the connection with spirit of the campus," Valley Athletics Director Diedra Stark said. "I think they come and they take classes and they leave and they go to work ... we just don't seem to have the following that we would love."

The Monarch Stadium stands, according to Valley Athletic Director Dale Beck, were filled in the mid '90s when Fenwick was coaching. This success is back and on Nov. 13. The Monarchs will face Pierce College for a possible conference championship and undefeated conference record.

Coach Fenwick's favorite saying regarding attendance is, "Once we put a good product on the field, the fans will come." Well, Valley students, the product is on the field ... see you at homecoming.

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BASEBALL ON THE HORIZON

With MLB's season just ending, the Monarchs' season is on the horizon.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

With the season fast approaching, the Monarch baseball team is using the offseason to create the strongest team in the division. The main goal of the team will be to defend its Western State Conference Southern Division Championship.

"We plan on continuing to build on the success of last season," said Head Coach Dave Mallas. "We had a good year of recruiting and still

have several good guys from last year. There is no reason why we shouldn't win another championship," Mallas added.

The offseason consists of a 10-game fall semester. With 45 guys currently on the roster, Mallas needs to cut it down to 20 or 30 by spring. Competition is fierce and as the season gets closer each player has to be on his "A-game," according to Mallas.

"It was 2005 when we won our last championship and I am excited we were able to win another. Five years is too long of a gap, though. I expect a playoff berth at the very least," said Mallas.

Freddy Contreras and Stephen Odachowski are two of the

Monarchs' starting pitchers who will be returning to the mound this year. Last season they combined for six of Valley's wins and were essential to the team's performance, according to Mallas.

Chase Muñoz, a catcher and pitcher, will also be returning to the diamond this season. Regarding his talents, Mallas said, "He is a well-rounded player and we are happy to see him return. He is really developing well this offseason."

The team's first divisional game will be on March 5, on the road against Citrus College. The Monarchs beat the Fighting Owls last season and hope this season produces the same results.



PREPARATION - The Monarch baseball team prepares for the spring season.